

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1785

To urge the President to establish the White House Commission on National Military Appreciation Month, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 7, 2001

Mr. CLELAND (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. CARNAHAN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MILLER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. REID) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To urge the President to establish the White House Commission on National Military Appreciation Month, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “White House Commis-
5 sion on National Military Appreciation Month Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The vigilance of the United States Armed
9 Forces, past and present, has been instrumental to

1 the preservation of the freedom, security, and pros-
2 perity that the United States enjoys.

3 (2) The vigilance and capabilities of the United
4 States Armed Forces depend on the dedicated serv-
5 ice of its members, their families, and the civilian
6 employees of the Department of Defense and United
7 States Coast Guard.

8 (3) The role of the United States as a world
9 leader, and the global scope that such role imparts
10 to our Nation's interests, requires a military force
11 that is well-trained, well-equipped, and appropriately
12 sized.

13 (4) For such a force to be fielded, the young
14 men and women of the United States must possess
15 a commitment to military service that is sufficient to
16 achieve the levels of recruitment and retention of en-
17 listed, officer, and civilian personnel necessary for
18 sustaining the strength, vitality, and character of the
19 United States Armed Forces.

20 (5) To foster and sustain such a commitment,
21 it is vital for youth in the United States to under-
22 stand that the service provided by members of the
23 United States Armed Forces is an honorable legacy
24 that has protected the freedoms that are enjoyed by

1 United States citizens and citizens of many other
2 nations.

3 (6) The Federal Government has a responsi-
4 bility to raise awareness of and respect for this as-
5 pect of our national heritage and to encourage citi-
6 zens to dedicate themselves to the values and prin-
7 ciples for which Americans have served and sac-
8 rificed throughout our history.

9 (7) Service in the United States Armed Forces
10 entails special sacrifices and hazards.

11 (8) The special duties required of those who
12 serve in the United States Armed Forces demand
13 special sacrifices from the families of service mem-
14 bers, and the support of the families is an essential
15 force multiplier that enhances the effectiveness and
16 capabilities of the United States Armed Forces.

17 (9) The Nation's observance of events recog-
18 nizing the contributions of the Armed Forces is a
19 tangible and highly effective way of sustaining mo-
20 rale and improving quality of life for the military
21 family.

22 (10) Senate Resolution 33 (106th Congress, 1st
23 session), a resolution entitled "Senate Resolution
24 Designating May 1999 as 'National Military Appre-
25 ciation Month'", agreed to on April 30, 1999, called

1 on the people of the United States, in a symbolic act
 2 of unity, to observe a National Military Appreciation
 3 Month in May 1999, to honor the service men and
 4 women of the United States past and present, in-
 5 cluding those who have died in the pursuit of free-
 6 dom and peace.

7 (11) It is important for the relevance of the his-
 8 tory and activities of the United States Armed
 9 Forces to be emphasized to current and future citi-
 10 zens of the United States through an annual Na-
 11 tional Military Appreciation Month that includes as-
 12 sociated local and national observances and activi-
 13 ties.

14 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF WHITE HOUSE COMMISSION**
 15 **ON NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION**
 16 **MONTH.**

17 It is the sense of Congress that the President should
 18 establish a commission known as the “White House Com-
 19 mission on National Military Appreciation Month” to
 20 make recommendations to the President on the proclama-
 21 tion of “National Military Appreciation Month” to be cele-
 22 brated in the month of May each year.

23 **SEC. 4. COMMISSION DUTIES.**

24 (a) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The White House Com-
 25 mission on National Military Appreciation Month, if estab-

1 lished pursuant to this Act, shall submit to the President
2 its recommendations on actions that should be taken to—

3 (1) foster public service and civic virtue on the
4 part of the people of the United States by—

5 (A) inspiring respect and understanding
6 for the spirit of America;

7 (B) recognizing the many sacrifices made
8 by members of the United States Armed Forces
9 and the members of their families;

10 (C) recognizing the importance of main-
11 taining a strong, well-equipped, educated, and
12 trained military force for the United States to
13 safeguard peace and freedom;

14 (D) encouraging the citizens of the United
15 States to take pride in the United States
16 Armed Forces for the protection and service
17 that the Armed Forces provide;

18 (E) recognizing and honoring the dedica-
19 tion and commitment of members of the United
20 States Armed Forces, and expressing apprecia-
21 tion for all contributions made by the members
22 of the Armed Forces throughout the history of
23 the United States; and

1 (F) promoting education of America's
2 youth that focuses on the history and world role
3 of the United States Armed Forces;

4 (2) inspire national, State, local, and tribal par-
5 ticipation in the commemoration of the United
6 States Armed Forces throughout the year in celebra-
7 tions of National Military Appreciation Month and
8 patriotic and military commemorative days, such as
9 Flag Day, D-day, Veterans Day, and Pearl Harbor
10 Day, by—

11 (A) encouraging the participation of di-
12 verse entities including—

13 (i) national humanitarian and patri-
14 otic organizations;

15 (ii) elementary, secondary, and higher
16 education institutions;

17 (iii) veterans' societies and civic, pa-
18 triotic, educational, sporting, artistic, cul-
19 tural, and historical organizations;

20 (iv) Federal departments and agen-
21 cies; and

22 (v) museums, including cultural and
23 historical museums; and

24 (B) recommending appropriate activities to
25 observe National Military Appreciation Month

1 and patriotic and military commemorative days
2 including—

3 (i) the production, publication, and
4 distribution of books, pamphlets, films, and
5 other educational materials;

6 (ii) bibliographical and documentary
7 projects and publications;

8 (iii) conferences, convocations, lec-
9 tures, seminars, and other similar pro-
10 grams;

11 (iv) the development of exhibits for li-
12 braries, museums, and other appropriate
13 institutions;

14 (v) ceremonies and celebrations com-
15 memorating specific events that relate to
16 the establishment of the Armed Forces of
17 the United States and the history of the
18 Armed Forces participation in wars and
19 other hostilities;

20 (vi) competitions, commissions, and
21 awards regarding historical, scholarly, ar-
22 tistic, literary, musical, and other works,
23 programs, and projects related to such
24 commemorations;

(vii) recommendations to appropriate agencies or advisory bodies regarding the issuance by the United States of commemorative coins, medals, and stamps relating to National Military Appreciation Month and other military commemorative events; and

(viii) recommendations for any legislation or administrative action that the Commission determines to be appropriate regarding the commemoration of National Military Appreciation Month and other military commemorative events; and

(3) provide national coordination for the observance of National Military Appreciation Month.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT.—For each fiscal year in which the Commission carries out activities pursuant to this Act, the Commission shall submit to the President and Congress a report describing the activities.

(2) CONTENT.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an accounting of funds received and expended by the Commission in the fiscal year,

1 including a detailed description of the sources
2 and amounts of any donations of funds accept-
3 ed by the Commission under any authority
4 granted to the Commission by the President;
5 and

6 (B) a description of cooperative agree-
7 ments and contracts entered into by the Com-
8 mission under any authority granted to the
9 Commission by the President.

10 **SEC. 5. COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP.**

11 It is the sense of Congress that any White House
12 Commission on National Military Appreciation Month
13 should be composed of the following members:

14 (1) Five members appointed by the President,
15 including at least 1 representative of tribal organiza-
16 tions (as defined in section 4(l) of the Indian Self-
17 Determination and Education Assistance Act (25
18 U.S.C. 450b(l))).

19 (2) The Secretary of Defense.

20 (3) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

21 (4) The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institu-
22 tion.

23 (5) The Director of the Office of Personnel
24 Management.

25 (6) The Administrator of General Services.

- 1 (7) The Secretary of Transportation.
- 2 (8) The Secretary of Education.
- 3 (9) The Secretary of the Interior.
- 4 (10) The Secretary of State.
- 5 (11) The Executive Director of the President's
- 6 Commission on White House Fellows.
- 7 (12) The Secretary of the Army.
- 8 (13) The Secretary of the Navy.
- 9 (14) The Secretary of the Air Force.
- 10 (15) The Commandant of the Marine Corps.
- 11 (16) The Commandant of the Coast Guard.
- 12 (17) The Chief of Staff of the Army.
- 13 (18) The Chief of Naval Operations.
- 14 (19) The Chief of Staff of the Air Force.
- 15 (20) Any other persons appointed by the Presi-
- 16 dent upon the recommendation of the Commission.

17 **SEC. 6. SPIRIT OF AMERICA ALLIANCE.**

18 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—It is the sense of Congress
 19 that, if the President establishes the White House Com-
 20 mission on National Military Appreciation Month, the
 21 President should also establish an alliance to be known
 22 as the “Spirit of America Alliance” that is composed of
 23 individuals, appointed by the Commission, who are rep-
 24 resentatives or members of—

- 1 (1) the print, broadcast, or other media indus-
- 2 try;
- 3 (2) the national sports community;
- 4 (3) the recreation industry;
- 5 (4) the entertainment industry;
- 6 (5) the retail industry;
- 7 (6) the food industry;
- 8 (7) the health care industry;
- 9 (8) the transportation industry;
- 10 (9) the education community;
- 11 (10) national veterans organizations;
- 12 (11) families that have lost loved ones in com-
- 13 bat or to terrorist acts;
- 14 (12) the nonprofit community; and
- 15 (13) honorary, nonvoting members appointed by
- 16 the Commission.

17 (b) DUTIES.—The Alliance shall assist the
18 Commission—

- 19 (1) in the planning, organization, and conduct
- 20 of an annual White House Conference on National
- 21 Military Appreciation Month and other similar
- 22 events;
- 23 (2) in the promotion of the observance of Na-
- 24 tional Military Appreciation Month and other mili-
- 25 tary commemorative events through appropriate

1 means, subject to any guidelines developed by the
2 Commission;

3 (3) in the establishment of necessary incentives
4 for Federal, State, and local governments and pri-
5 vate sector entities to sponsor and participate in
6 programs initiated by the Commission or the Alli-
7 ance;

8 (4) in the evaluation of the effectiveness of ef-
9 forts by the Commission and the Alliance in carrying
10 out this Act; and

11 (5) by the performance of any other related du-
12 ties that are assigned by the Commission.

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